

Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed July 6, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of all rejections in light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, the amendment to Fig. 1, and the following remarks.

Applicant wishes to extend his appreciation to the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because they do not include a certain reference sign mentioned in the specification. Applicant is including with this response an Annotated Marked-Up Copy and Replacement Copy whereby the reference character 4 is incorporated and identified on the drawing figure 1. Support for this amendment is provided for on page 5, lines 23-25 of the specification. Reconsideration and reversal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to state 'carbon dioxide separation system' in step b).

Claim 2 has been amended to state 'further comprising recycling a methane stream'.

Claim 7 has been amended to state 'comprising producing high purity hydrogen from said monolith reactor'.

Claim 14 has been amended in step b) to read 'carbon dioxide separation system'.

Claim 15 has been amended to read 'recycling a fuel gas'.

Claim 21 has been amended to state 'comprising producing high purity hydrogen from said monolith reactor'.

Claim 23 has been amended to depend from claim 15.

Applicant submits that these amendments are all supported by the specification as filed and that the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Reconsideration and reversal of this rejection are respectfully requested.


The references listed on both PTO-892 and PTO-1449 have not been discussed as they show art of interest only.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims define patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance. Prompt favorable action to that end is accordingly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned should any issue arise during the reconsideration of the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: SEPTEMBER 15, 2005
The BOC Group, Inc.
Legal Services - Intellectual Property
575 Mountain Ave.
Murray Hill, NJ 07974


Philip H. Von Neida
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 34,942
(908) 771-6402

Attachments
Replacement Sheet
Annotated Marked-Up Drawings Sheet

FIG. 1

